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STATE FOR S/CT AND TTIC

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SUBJECT: CANADA: 2004 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 245841

¶1. Unclassified entire text.

¶2. The Government of Canada remained steadfast in its condemnation of international and domestic terrorism and has been a helpful and strong supporter of the United States in the fight against international terror. Overall antiterrorism cooperation with Canada remains excellent and serves as a model for bilateral cooperation. Despite occasional differences, antiterrorism cooperation with Canada remains excellent and serves as a model for a cooperative bilateral relationship.

¶3. Canada has contributed to military activities in the global war on terror. Canadian Armed Forces participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, and, as of December 2004, approximately 700 Canadian troops continue to be stationed in Kabul in support of ISAF VI. In addition, approximately 200 Canadian personnel are located in the United Arab Emirates, where they are providing airlift and logistics support to deployed troops in the Southwest Asia theater. Although Canada chose not to join the Operation Iraqi Freedom, it has contributed USD 280 million to the reconstruction of Iraq and has also given USD 18 million to help with the January 2005 Iraq transitional elections.

¶4. Day-to-day cooperation between the US and Canadian law enforcement agencies is close and continuous. Under the 2001 Anti-Terrorism Act, Canada strengthened its ability to identify, deter, disable, prosecute, convict, and punish terrorist groups. It also provides investigative tools for Canadian law enforcement agencies while providing substantial safeguards to privacy and due process. In December 2003, the Government of Canada established the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (PSEPC), which roughly parallels the US Department of Homeland Security, and gave it the mandate of protecting Canadians from criminals and terrorists.

¶5. Canada cooperates closely with the United States on investigations, and there is a heavy volume of extradition requests between the two countries. Canadian privacy laws, limited resources, and criminal procedures are more favorable to the defendant than in the United States. This could occasionally inhibit a more full and timely exchange of information and may benefit supporters of terrorism.

¶6. Canada was the first country to ratify the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism in December 2002. Canada implements terrorist finance listings in compliance with UN requirements and coordinates closely with the United States on plans to freeze assets. Efforts to counter terrorist financing include implementing UNSCR 1373, promoting the Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing of the Financial Action Task Force, and actively participating in the G-7, G-8, and G-20. As of November 2004, Canada had listed all terrorist entities listed by the United Nations. Although they are subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code of Canada, the law remains untested and no prosecutions have taken place.

¶7. Canada and the United States take part in a number of joint counterterrorism forums. In October 2003, they participated in a new round of talks under the auspices of the Bilateral Consultative Group (BCG) on Counterterrorism Cooperation which was formed in 1988. Preparations are now underway to hold a new round of BCG talks in the spring of 2005, to be hosted by Canada. In May 2003, Canada and the United States participated in the second Top Officials simulation to test local, state/province, and federal disaster responses to a terrorist attack against civilian populations. Canada will also participate with the United States and the United Kingdom in the next scheduled Top Officials simulation, scheduled for the spring of 2005. In addition, the US Attorney General and Canada's Ministers for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Justice coordinate policy at the US-Canadian Cross-Border Crime Forum, which last met in Ottawa in October 2004. The forum has a sub-group on counterterrorism, and future efforts include continued implementation of provisions of the Smart Border Accord and the further integration of border enforcement teams that are now operating in 15 regions.

18. Canada has signed and ratified all 12 UN conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and has listed all terrorist entities designated by the UN. In June the Government of Canada declined the opportunity to join the US and other nations to publicly reiterate the policy of not negotiating with terrorists even for the sake of securing the safety and release of the hostages.

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